July 3, 2015

From the Principal

Thank you to all of the parents and caregivers who attended interviews so positively. It was wonderful to see so many parents, teachers and students reflecting and celebrating on successes and developing goals for the future. The few small teething problems with our online interview system Sentral were quickly resolved and the process was much easier and efficient particularly for those families with more than one child at the school. The parent portal will be able to provide you with information regarding attendance, copies of recent reports, school bulletins and we hope in the future other academic records. If you do not have an access key please contact myself or Gyllian at the school and we will provide you with one.

Thank you to the SRC, Helen and Amy for organising the Yin Yang café to raise money for the children of Nepal. We were treated to Nepalese delicacies, music, Chai tea and exotic aromas. The group raised over $250.

We have had some exciting developments in relation to the school grounds. Our grounds committee worked last year gathering ideas and feedback from our community on how we would like to continue to improve our environment. We have employed a designer who has worked with us to develop initial plans. The central entrance to the school, alongside of the courts, and the back area near the gate will be the first areas developed. (drawings are in the centre of the newsletter.) These designs will be further developed and we hope to start the works by the next school holidays. Further development plans include the front of the school (including a new fence and gates) and revamping the playgrounds with some natural play and sports elements. We will be fundraising over the coming years and implementing the development over a period of time. If you have any feedback or would like to become involved please contact myself or a member of the school council. You may also have noticed two new murals emerging across the school. The library entrance has been designed by the IELC students from Vivian Scott’s class, both under Christine Lawrence’s guidance. Although it does seem strange, we are already discussing and preparing for 2016.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirements of two wonderful educators who have given so much to the school and education. Ms Carol West will be retiring after over 40 years in education, the last seven of them at Gilles Street as Deputy Principal. Carol has worked in the country and metropolitan area in a variety of settings. She will be sadly missed but will enjoy her time gardening and traveling.

Christine Lawrence also retires at the end of 2015 after a very long and varied career. Christine has worked at Craigmore and Banksia Park High Schools before taking 12 years leave to work as a professional painter. She has worked at Gilles Street as Deputy Principal, the last seven of them at Gilles Street for the past 18 years. Christine has recently become engaged and plans to initially move to Western Australia to spend time painting the WA outback. We wish them all the best!

The end of the term has come quickly and I think everyone is looking forward to the upcoming holidays. I hope that you get a chance to have a break and maybe enjoy somewhere warm.

Deb O’Neill
Stage 1 Development

CONCEPT - ZONES

1. COURTS

2. ADMIN BUILDING

FOOTPATH
Stage 1 Development: Central entrance to school

Stage 1 Development: Back gate area
Term 3 Yoga

Would those interested in joining yoga, Friday afternoons after school, please return your note and money on Monday or Tuesday of Week 1. We can only start the class again if there are enough interested. If you have any questions please contact either myself or Wendy Semak at the Om Yoga centre on 0424635185.

Thanks, Vivian Scott (Rm3)

Yin Yang Café

Twelve litres of chai, 24 chai muffins, 20 chapatis, 15 naan and hundreds of visitors! This was the scene at the SRC’s one-day Yin Yang Café held at recess and lunch, where the SRC organisers worked tirelessly to ensure that their clientele enjoyed their experience!

Organisers decked out their exotic, hippy café into a chilled out zone, greeted visitors with Namaste, while listening to Essential Asian Flavas music. So far, there have been over 60 likes and a reach of just over 900 people on the school Facebook page!

$270 was raised from gold coin donation entries. Along with $200 the SRC raised at the 3 Talent Shows and The JP’s $280 for dress up day, we have a total of around $750 raised for the Nepal earthquake victims.

Our school community also donated generously to the Save the Children fund, where piggy banks were drained! Donations were approximately $220! Fundraising from Angela Plew’s cake stall and Vivian Scott’s popcorn sales will boost this to over a $1000!

All the teachers feel so proud of their students’ efforts!

Staff recommendation…. Andrew Fuller

One of our staff recently saw Andrew Fuller being interviewed on ABC24. Andrew Fuller is a clinical psychologist who has “recently been described as an “interesting mixture of Billy Connolly, Tim Winton and Frasier Crane” and as someone who “puts the heart back into psychology”. He works with many schools and communities in Australia and internationally, specialising in the wellbeing of young people and their families, as well as the author of a number of books including Tricky Kids and Help your Child Succeed at School. His new book Unlocking your Child’s Genius is the subject of this recent interview. Is your child a spy, a frequent flyer or a fidgeter?

Andrew discusses his 5 keys to unlock and foster the genius in children:

1. Positivity about learning
2. Creativity corners
3. Opportunity for reflection after the experience
4. Make connections in strange and weird ways
5. See mistakes as opportunities

See the full interview here

TERM 3 TRASH & TREASURE

A Trash and Treasure sale will be held in the library during Week 2, Term 3 with items on sale before school, recess and lunch.

Trash and treasure items will include books and toys.

The library will accept donations of toys and books during Week 1.

Thank you for supporting our library fundraiser.